

COUNTRY French Indo China - Siam

DATE: 25X1C

SUBJECT Origins of the Free Cambodian Movement;
Personalities

INFO. [REDACTED]

25X1A6a

DIST. 19 December 1946

PAGES 2

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X6 [REDACTED]

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1. The so-called Free Cambodian Movement did not exist before the recent war. Although there were undoubtedly numbers of Cambodians who desired freedom from the French, there has never been, nor is there now, an organized independence movement. There are now at least two distinct factions of the Free Cambodian Movement: those who advocate complete independence and those who advocate a union with Siam. Phra Phiset Phanit is a leader of the latter group.
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2. During Marshal Pibul's wartime regime as Premier of Siam, Phra Phiset Phanit, a native Cambodian, was called to Bangkok to direct propaganda at the Cambodians to join Siam. Marshal Pibul conferred the title of Phra on him for his work in this connection. Phra Phiset is an opportunist; the Siamese don't trust him and the Cambodians despise him for his efforts on behalf of Siam. It is reported the present King of Cambodia gave Phra Phiset 1 1/2 million piastres for the Free Cambodian Movement; it is said Phra Phiset pocketed the money.
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3. Immediately after the war, the Free Cambodian Movement was given impetus by Annamites in Cochin China. Agents of the Annamites endeavored to stir up Cambodian resistance to the French in order to draw off French troops from Cochin China. The Annamites also prevailed on Prince Souphanavong, Lao leader, to supply the Cambodians with arms. Other sources of supply for arms and ammunition are said to have been the Siamese and the Cochin China Annamites.
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4. There is no central leadership of the Free Cambodian Movement; the various groups and factions have little or no liaison or coordination.
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5. Prince Norodon Chantharangsi: younger half-brother of Prince Monireth. Admitted responsibility for the Siem Reap incident of 7-8 August 1946. He is now in Bangkok.
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6. Nai Pane: Secretary to Prince Norodon. He is a Cambodian by birth, but has resided in Bangkok for some time. Approximately fifty years of age.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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7. Nai Siri Phongsathat: Free Cambodian now in Bangkok working for the Siamese Publicity Department. Constantly seen in the company of Prince Norodon and Nai Pane. He was responsible for working out the Cambodian appeal to the United Nations. He does not like Phra Phiset or Chiat abhaiwong.
8. General de Jonquieres: French official who received the returned provinces from Siam. He was French Military attache in Bangkok during the war and was popular with the Siamese; ~~he appears to~~ like them also. The general is much the same type of Frenchman as Baron Surcouf, minus some of the personal charm. He seems to be a calm, sensible, diplomatic sort of a person.
9. Michel-Read: British Consul-General in Saigon. His manner is described as more French than the French themselves. He went to Phnom Penh recently to talk to a Cambodian government official and stated he found the latter so ignorant he was obliged to consult the French adviser to achieve any results.
10. M. Dariden: French Charge d'affaires in Bangkok. Approximately 38 years of age - a pleasant, serious-minded person.
11. Hoang: Cochin China Annamite. Assumed name. The former governor of Cochin China in the interim period between the end of the war and the return of the French. He is now in Bangkok. Hoang was head of the anti-Japanese underground in Cochin China during the war. Prior to that time he had served five years as a political prisoner of the French. He is the leader of the Viets in Siam.
12. Dr. Luan: Lives with Hoang. He is a medical doctor and an artist. Studied in Paris. Annamite.
13. Phong Le Van: Intimate friend of Dr. Luan and Hoang. He is head of the native staff of the Belgian Legation in Bangkok and is now acting as caretaker of that Legation. He left Indo China twenty-three years because of political pressure.

Evaluation paragraphs 5 - 13: 25X1X6

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